

Women support Feds in education

By Barbara Moxon

Recognizing the vital concern that most South Carolinians have for education, I wanted to share the results of a national poll of women recently released by the American Association of University Women.

This poll shows that a vast majority of women across political party lines believes the federal government should play a strong national role in education.

While Congress is trying to block-grant all funds for a large number of elementary and secondary education programs, the AAUW poll shows that women want public money to support public schools only.

While Congress is threatening to reduce the role of the federal government in public education, women want just the opposite – 68% of women polled think the federal government is not spending enough on education.

Of the 600 registered women voters ages 18 and older surveyed across the country by Lake, Snell, Perry, & Associates for AAUW, women want the following:

- National programs to make schools safe (86%),
- National standards for teachers to ensure a quality education for our children (89%),
- National standards to make sure children learn the basics like math and reading (84%), and
- Federal programs to give boys and girls the same opportunities in school (90%).

The poll also revealed that women are willing to take their commitment to education to the voting booth. "Eighty percent of women said they are more likely to vote for a member of Congress who supports a national investment in education." Seventy percent would vote against a member of Congress who voted to eliminate the Department of Education and to cut federal funding for schools.

AAUW branches in the Midlands and throughout SC are involved in a voter education campaign. Any concerned woman can get information and become involved by calling 800-608-5286 or through the new Two Minute Activist feature on AAUW's website www.aauw.org which allows women to link directly to their members of Congress.

There is a lot at stake for women in 1998, and we must not overlook the power of one vote – yours and mine.
